



Main Gravity Canal at San Benito, Texas, showing one of the locks in the distance.

No. 1.

In the series of announcements, of which this is the first, it is our purpose to give the readers of The Commoner, the exact facts concerning

The Valley of the Lower Rio Grande

and to call their attention especially to

SAN BENITO, TEXAS

in the very heart of this fertile Valley.

We want to tell you about: Our Favorable Location; Our Ideal Climate; Our Marvelously Productive Soil; Our Great Gravity Irrigation Canal System; Our Numerous and Profitable Products, and the Attractive Opportunities here for Investors and Homeseekers.

Location

Do not confound the "Lower Rio Grande Valley" with that larger region, commonly known as the "Gulf Coast Country." The Lower Rio Grande Valley is the Delta of the great river and is that portion of the Gulf Coast Country irrigated by its silt-laden waters. Look on your map; find the extreme Southern point of Texas at the mouth of the Rio Grande. That is the "Delta Country," the "Lower Rio Grande Valley," the "Agricultural Nugget," containing less than half a million acres, which is now attracting the attention of investors and Home-seekers, more than any other portion of the State.

The 40,000 acre tract of the SAN BENITO LAND AND WATER COMPANY lies in the very richest part of the Delta and extends from the river in a Northeasterly direction for a distance of 20 miles. The new but thriving town of SAN BENITO is situated 19 miles North of Brownsville, on the Main Line of the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway, which passes through the center of the San Benito tract.

Climate

The climate of the Lower Rio Grande Valley is semi-arid and healthful. The winters are mild and pleasant; the summers comparatively cool, being tempered by constant and refreshing breezes from the Gulf of Mexico.

Irrigation is absolutely necessary, as the rainfall is not sufficient to produce crops. But when irrigated with water from the Rio Grande, this Delta soil produces not only a Greater Variety of products than that of any other section of the United States, but products which excel in quality as well as quantity. We have twelve months of growing season.

Soil

The soil at San Benito, like that of the entire Delta, is a rich alluvial deposit. It is many feet in depth and varies from a black sandy silt to a rich chocolate loam. It is mellow and easily worked. A well-known Professor from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, when visiting San Benito recently, was asked as to the depth and richness of the soil. His reply was: "The soil here is so deep and so rich that it is not necessary to discuss its depth or richness."

The San Benito Gravity Canal

For successful irrigation, there must be an abundant and constant supply of water. This we have at San Benito. Our 40,000 acre tract is irrigated by means of our Main Gravity Canal and Laterals. The main canal is over 30 miles in length, 250 feet in width and 20 feet in depth. It forms a vast Storage Reservoir, and when full, holds 20,000 acre feet of water—enough to cover 20,000 acres one foot deep.

From the main canal, laterals, or branch canals, lead out to all parts of the tract. Fifty miles of these laterals are now completed.

The San Benito Canal is a Gravity Canal. The water flows naturally from the bottom of the river through the Headgates, fills the main canal and laterals, passes into the lead ditches and onto the land, thus irrigating thousands of acres without the stroke of a pump. It does this when the river is low, as well as when the river is high.

Products

The products of this valley are so numerous and so varied that we can at this time do no more than mention some of them. In subsequent announcements we will discuss the leading crops more fully, giving facts and figures as to production and profits. Among the leading staples are Sugar Cane, Cotton, Corn, Alfalfa, Sorghum and other forage crops.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley is the Winter Garden of the Nation. Truck crops of all kinds, such as Bermuda Onions, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Egg-plants, Beans, Okra and Asparagus, grow luxuriantly in the open fields during all the winter months.

Our soil and climate are well adapted to the growth of Oranges, Lemons and other Citrus Fruits, as well as to the culture of Figs, Grapes and Berries.

Write for illustrated booklet. Address

San Benito Land & Water Company,

Box B, San Benito, Texas.

ALBA HEYWOOD, President and General Manager.



An Associated Press dispatch from Washington, D. C., says: "Official amend for the sensational elimination of Jefferson Davis' name from the tablet on Cabin John Bridge, six miles west of this city, during President Lincoln's administration, is given in directions the president issued today through the secretary of war to the chief engineers of the army to restore the name."

The American fleet of battleships arriving at Old Point Comfort were greeted by the president.

By a vote of 186 to 120, a strictly party vote, the house of representatives refused to adopt a resolution offered by Representative Clark of Florida directing the committee on judiciary to take action on the letter sent to President Obaldia of Panama by Secretary of State Bacon. Bacon had written to Obaldia that the president had too "little regard" for Rainey and that the statements were not worthy of notice.

Federal Judge Anderson, presiding in the Standard Oil case at Chicago sustained the motion, made by the attorneys of the Standard Oil, calling for the quashing of the jury panel consisting of 150. The Standard Oil attorneys claim there were too many farmers on the jury.

Political rumors credit Governor Hughes with an ambition to succeed Senator Depew. Inasmuch as this office has been set aside for Mr. Roosevelt when he shall have completed his African hunt, republican leaders are greatly agitated.

The United States supreme court has affirmed a decision of the lower court in assessing fines aggregating \$152,600 against the New York Central Railroad company.

In an opinion by Justice White the United States supreme court upheld the Arkansas anti-trust law of 1905 which provides a penalty of from \$200 to \$500 for each offense and the forfeiture of the right to do business in the state. The decision was handed down in the case of the Hammond Packing company, of Chicago, which it was charged had conspired with other packers to fix the price of meats. A \$10,000 fine was imposed. That verdict was sustained by the Arkansas supreme court, whose finding was today affirmed. Justice White gave especial consideration to the complaint that when the company refused to produce its books in obedience to an order from the court a judgment was given against it contrary to the federal constitution. Justice White declared that it is the duty of a corporation to live in the light of day and be prepared at any time "to exhibit its proceedings to its creator, the state."

The United States supreme court decided the case of the Cumberland Telephone company vs. the Railroad Commission of Louisiana, involving the right of the commission to reduce the company's long distance rates, favorably to the state. Decision was by Justice Peckham.

It is plain that there will be no twenty-nine million dollar fine for the Standard Oil trust this time. An Associated Press dispatch under

date of Chicago, February 25, says: "United States District Judge Anderson broadly intimated today that he will rule that the unit of offense in the Standard Oil rebating case will be the thirty-six settlements of freight charges. Under this ruling, if made, a fine of only \$720,000 is possible as compared with Judge Landis' assessment of \$29,240,000 in the original case. The court said after listening to the arguments: 'I think that there can be no more convictions than there have been settlements, wherein the carrier and the shipper have settled their accounts and the shipper has received back the difference between the valid rate and the rate which was a concession. Of these settlements there were thirty-six.' In rendering this informal opinion the court also disposed of the contention of the defense that the whole matter was a continuing offense, susceptible to but one punishment."

The report of Herbert Knox Smith, commissioner of corporations, says that the tobacco business is practically controlled by ten men.

The Associated Press is authority for the statement that Mr. Taft's first message of 5,000 words was read and approved by Mr. Roosevelt.

Four thousand shoe lasters went on a strike at Portsmouth, Ohio.

The Nebraska legislature has passed the bill providing for the election of United States senators by the Oregon plan.

W. K. Vanderbilt has given one million for the erection of white plague tenements.

The manner in which committee appointments are distributed among senators was a subject of a resolution and remarks submitted to the senate February 25 by Senator Burkett of Nebraska. The Associated Press says: "Mr. Burkett's resolution provided that committee assignments shall be made by seniority, but that no senator shall be a member of both the committee on finance and appropriations, nor a senator of more than two committees that consider appropriation bills, nor of more than two of the following important committees: Appropriations, commerce, finance, foreign relations, interstate commerce, judiciary and rules, these being the important committees of the senate. Mr. Burkett read from a statistical table he had compiled showing that on the seven committees but thirty-seven of the forty-six states are represented, while all the places are held by thirty-five of the ninety-two senators. Of the eighty-nine places on these committees, he said fifty-five places are held by sixteen states. While fifty-nine places are held by republicans, he said, thirty-nine individual republicans hold all of them. Of these eighty-nine desirable assignments, he said, twenty-three are held by senators from states west of the Mississippi river and sixty-six places by senators from east of the Mississippi. Twenty-six senators, he said, are on more than two of these committees; thirty are on two; twenty-two are on one, and fourteen are on none at all. Mr. Burkett insisted that better results would be obtained by a different distribution." (Continued on Page 12)